

PRAGMATIC CHALLENGES IN TRANSLATING ENGLISH COMPOUND WORDS INTO UZBEK

Anarbayev Orzubek Rahmanovich

UzSWLU, a senior teacher, an independent researcher

orzubekanarbaev@gmail.com

ORCID 0000-0002-5588-0936

Abstract: *The translation of compound words, particularly in specialized domains such as newspapers, poses significant challenges. This study investigates the pragmatic difficulties encountered when translating English compound words into Uzbek, focusing on terminology used in the journalistic context. By examining linguistic, cultural, and contextual aspects, this paper highlights the complexities of translating multi-word units while maintaining accuracy and meaning. Through a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods, the study explores key translation strategies and their efficacy in bridging linguistic and cultural gaps.*

Key words: *compound words, cultural adaptation, pragmatic translation, intralingual, interlingual, translation techniques.*

INTRODUCTION

In the context of newspaper translation, compound words are among the most frequent and complex lexical units. English compound words, often formed by combining two or more words into a single lexical unit (e.g., “breakfast” or “newspaper”), create unique challenges for translators. These challenges are particularly evident when translating into languages like Uzbek, which has its own syntactic and morphological structures. Newspaper terminology, which frequently incorporates specialized compound words, requires precise translation strategies that retain both the denotative and connotative meanings in the target language.

While translation studies have addressed compound words in general, little attention has been given to the pragmatic challenges in translating newspaper compound terms between English and Uzbek. The need for accurate representation of meaning, especially in journalistic settings where the reader’s understanding depends heavily on precise language use, complicates the translation process.

This paper aims to explore the pragmatic challenges faced by translators when translating English compound words into Uzbek in the context of newspaper terminology. It focuses on how cultural, syntactic, and contextual factors influence translation decisions, and assesses the strategies employed to preserve both the functional and rhetorical aspects of compound words.

Understanding these challenges has practical implications for improving the quality of translations in journalism, as accurate and culturally appropriate translations are essential for effective communication across linguistic boundaries. The findings of this study could contribute to the development of translation guidelines for media professionals working with these languages.

METHODS

This study employs a mixed-method approach, combining qualitative and quantitative techniques. It uses corpus analysis to examine a set of English-language newspaper articles, focusing specifically on compound words. These articles are then translated into Uzbek by professional translators, and the translations are analyzed for fidelity, accuracy, and appropriateness.

The corpus consists of 50 articles from prominent English-language newspapers, such as The New York Times and The Guardian, covering a range of topics from politics to international relations. The articles were selected based on their linguistic diversity and the frequency of compound words, particularly in journalistic contexts.

The translation process was carried out by two professional Uzbek translators with experience in media translation. Each translator was asked to translate the selected articles while adhering to specific translation guidelines, which prioritized accuracy, cultural relevance, and reader accessibility.

The translated texts were analyzed for pragmatic challenges. These challenges include:

- Cultural differences: How well do the translators handle English cultural references that may not have direct equivalents in Uzbek?
- Syntactic structures: How do the translators deal with the syntactic differences between English and Uzbek, especially when translating multi-word compounds?
- Contextual nuances: How do the translators ensure that the meaning and tone of the original compound words are preserved in the translated text?

The analysis is both qualitative, in terms of examining specific translation examples, and quantitative, by categorizing the translation strategies used.

Results

1. Challenges in Translating Newspaper Compound Words: The analysis revealed several recurring challenges in translating English compound words into Uzbek, particularly within newspaper articles:

- Cultural gaps: Many English compound words contained cultural references that had no direct equivalent in Uzbek. For instance, terms like “New York Times” or “The White House” required more explanation or adaptation to ensure the target audience understood the reference.

- Syntactic and morphological issues: English compound words often combine words into single lexical units, whereas Uzbek tends to favor syntactic combinations. For example, the term “breaking news” in English was often rendered as a phrase in Uzbek, such as “yangi xabarlar” (new news), changing its compound structure.

- Loss of nuance: Translators sometimes struggled to preserve the full range of meaning or connotation present in the English compounds. For instance, terms like “market share” or “financial report” carried specific professional connotations in English, but those nuances were challenging to replicate in Uzbek without further context or explanation.

2. Translation Strategies: Several strategies were employed to overcome these challenges:

- Borrowing: In some cases, English terms were borrowed directly into the Uzbek translation (e.g., “online” became “onlayn”). This approach was particularly common for terms that had become internationally recognized.

- Literal translation: When possible, translators used a word-for-word approach. For example, “social media” was translated as “ijtimoiy tarmoqlar,” which is a literal equivalent in Uzbek.

- Explication: To address cultural gaps, translators often added brief explanatory phrases to clarify references. For example, “White House” was sometimes translated as “Oq uy (AQSh prezidentining qarorgohi)” (the White House, the residence of the U.S. president).

- Adaptation: In some cases, the translation involved adapting the compound word to a culturally relevant equivalent. For example, “breaking news” was often translated as “dolzarb yangiliklar,” which conveys the urgency but in a different syntactic structure.

3. Effectiveness of Strategies: The effectiveness of each strategy varied depending on the context. Borrowing and literal translation were effective when the terms were internationally recognized. Explication and adaptation were particularly useful for terms that carried cultural or professional connotations unfamiliar to the Uzbek audience.

DISCUSSION

The study reveals that translating compound words involves more than just finding linguistic equivalents; it requires a deep understanding of both source and target cultures. For example, terms like “Black Friday” or “Silicon Valley” carry specific cultural connotations that are not easily translatable into Uzbek without losing some of their original meaning. In such cases, adaptation is often the most effective strategy, though it may not always be a perfect solution.

The findings underscore the importance of pragmatic awareness in translation. Translators must not only be linguistically proficient but also culturally sensitive,

adapting their translations to suit the expectations and knowledge of the target audience. In the case of newspaper translations, where the accuracy of information is critical, this is particularly important.

This study focused primarily on a small corpus of articles from a few English-language newspapers. Future research could expand the corpus and include additional languages to compare how different linguistic and cultural contexts affect the translation of compound words.

CONCLUSION

Translating English compound words into Uzbek, especially in the context of newspapers, presents numerous pragmatic challenges. While various strategies such as borrowing, literal translation, explicitation, and adaptation are commonly employed, each comes with its own set of limitations. The findings emphasize the need for translators to be aware of both linguistic structures and cultural contexts to ensure effective communication across languages. Further research could explore the impact of these translation strategies on reader comprehension and media accuracy.

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